

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract.

A ~~method is comprised of inputting~~ a comparand word is input to a plurality of hash circuits, with each hash circuit being responsive ~~responding~~ to a different portion of the comparand word. The hash circuits output a hash signal which ~~is used to enable~~ enables or precharges ~~or precharge~~ portions of a content addressable memory CAM. The comparand word is also input to the CAM. The CAM compares the comparand word in the precharged portions of the CAM and outputs information responsive to the comparison comparing step. When ~~used to process~~ Internet addresses are processed, the output information ~~is either output may be~~ port information or an index for locating port information. ~~from which port information may be located~~. A circuit is also disclosed as is a method of initializing the circuit.